(as percent of GDP)

Sl. No.	Country	Social Benefits General Government	Social Benefits Central Government
1.	Bangladesh	–	0.99
2.	Chile	4.20	4.19
3.	China	–	–
4.	Argentina	6.14*	6.14*
5.	France	23.09	22.16
6.	Germany	24.63	20.67
7.	U.K.	12.68	11.23
8.	U.S.A.	12.20	9.08

* for 2004 Source: Government Finance Statistics Yearbook, 2008, IMF

New pension scheme

2613. SHRI MAHMOOD A. MADANI:
SHRI SANJAY RAUT:
Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of subscribers of New Pension Scheme (NPS) till the end of June 2009;

(b) whether it is a fact that there has been discrepancy regarding the tax relief offered to subscribers prior to a certain date;

(c) if so, what is the rationale for not extending similar relief to the remaining subscribers of NPS; and

(d) whether Government considers removing this discrepancy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) The total number of subscribers in the New Pension System (NPS) as on 30.6.2009 was 5,40,244.

(b) to (d) There were two main tax related issues pertaining to NPS contributions. First, the benefit under Section 80 CCD of the Income-tax Act, 1961 was restricted to the employees of the Central Government and other employers and was not available to other individuals. Secondly, the accumulated pension wealth was subject to tax at the time of withdrawal. The Finance Bill, 2009 has proposed to extend the benefit of Section 80 CCD of the Income-tax Act, 1961 to all individuals. Further, it is also proposed to exempt from tax all withdrawals if such amount is used for purchasing an annuity.

Circulation of fake currency

2614. DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state: